

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01

INT-05 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

----- 081830

P R 290805Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7525  
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA UNN

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PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. SAM VASTOLA,  
PRESIDENT ESSO AFRICA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS MO

SUBJECT: ESSO AFRICA MEETING WITH MOROCCAN COMMERCE MINISTER

1. FURTHER OUR TELEX OF YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTRY ON  
JANUARY 27 SUGGESTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF MISSION THAT BECAUSE OF  
EXTREMELY BUSY GHISSASSI SCHEDULE WHICH HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT  
FINALIZE RABAT VISIT, ESSO REP MAY IN INTEREST OF TIME WISH  
TO PRESENT NEW PROPOSAL TO MINCOMM SECRETARY OF STATE MOUSSA  
SAADI.

2. DURING LUNCH WITH SECSTATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BELKHAYAT  
ON 28TH, SECSTATE RAISED ESSO CASE WITH ECOUN, CONFIRMING  
MOROCCAN DESIRE TO SEE MATTER SETTLED SOON. ASKED ABOUT FONMIN  
SUGGESTION THAT MOUSSA SAADI RECEIVE ESSO REP INSTEAD OF  
MINISTER, BELKHAYAT SAID THAT HE AWARE OF SITUATION AND  
TIGHT GHISSASSI SCHEDULE, ASSURING THAT THERE WAS NOT RPT NO  
INTENTION TO DOWNGRADE GOM INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT. GHISSASSI  
TOTALLY INVOLVED WITH ROUND OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MOROCCO'S  
TIGHT FISCAL SITUATION AND SOME DELAY MAY OCCUR BEFORE HE  
AVAILABLE. SECSTATE LEVEL CONTACT SEEN AS LOGICAL WAY OF  
GETTING ON WITH RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. AS INITIATIVE TOWARDS GETTING TALKS OFF TO GOOD START, BELKHAYAT RECOMMENDED EMBASSY REMAIN ASIDE DURING INITIAL STAGES AS SIGNAL ESSO TEAM WILLINGNESS TO DEPOLITICIZE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WE INTERPRET THESE COMMENTS AS INDICATIVE OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION ON MATTER AND RECOGNITION THAT GOM MUST BE PREPARED TO RECIPROcate ESSO FLEXIBILITY. ACTING UPON HINT THAT DEPOLITICIZING TALKS WOULD GIVE GOM NEW CHANCE FOR FLEXIBILITY, SUGGEST VASTOLA OR ROOT SEND DIRECT WIRE TO HIS EXCELLENCY MOUSSA SAADI, SECRETAIRE D'ETAT, MINISTRE DU COMMERCE, QUARTIER ADMINISTRATIF, RABAT, REQUESTING APPOINTMENT FOR EARLY MEETING AT HIS CONVENIENCE. HOPE, OF COURSE, YOU WILL CALL ON AMBASSADOR DURING VISIT AND CONTINUE TO KEEP US ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS.

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